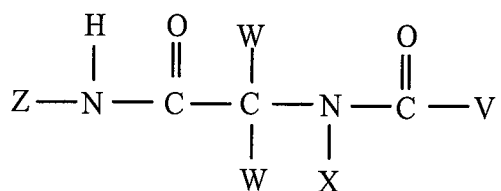<u>AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS</u>:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.
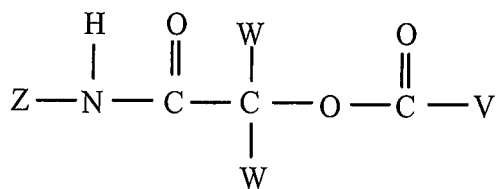
<u>Listing of Claims:</u>

1.   (Currently amended) A compound of the formula

$$Z-N(H)-C(=O)-C(W)(W)-N(X)-C(=O)-V$$

with W above the middle carbon

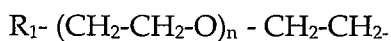formula (Ia)

<u>or</u>

$$Z-N(H)-C(=O)-C(W)(W)-O-C(=O)-V$$

formula (Ib)

in which

the residues V, W, X and Z are in each case, independently of each other, a hydrocarbon residue which can contain heteroatoms and/or V, W and/or X is/are hydrogen, wherein at least one of the residues V, W, X and/or Z ~~carries a~~ contains a binding group Y and in that the residues V, W, X and Z together exhibit at least two groups of the formula (IIa)
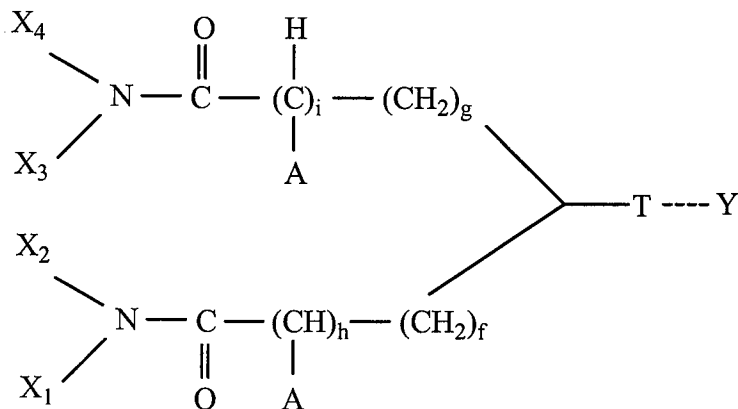
$R_1- (CH_2-CH_2-O)_n - CH_2-CH_2-$

formula (IIa)

in which

R_1 is H, hydroxy or a hydrocarbon residue which has from 1 to [[50]] 10 carbon atoms and which can contain heteroatoms, and

n is, on each occasion independently, an integer of from 3 to 1000.

2. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein the binding group Y is selected from groups which are able to covalently bind to an amino group, a thiol group, a carboxyl group, a guanidine group, a carbonyl group, a hydroxyl group, a heterocycle, a C-nucleophilic group, a C-electrophilic group, a phosphate or a sulfate, or are able to form a chelate or a complex with metals or are able to bond to silicon-containing surfaces.

3. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein it contains at least three groups of the formula (IIa).

4. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein at least one of the residues X and/or Z is branched and contains at least two groups of the formula (IIa).

5. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein at least one of the residues X and/or Z additionally possesses a targeting group.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound having the formula (XIV)

$$X_4 \diagdown \diagdown N - C - (C)_i - (CH_2)_g$$

$$\underset{X_3}{\diagup} \quad \underset{O}{\overset{O}{\|}} \quad \underset{A}{\overset{H}{|}}$$

$$-T ---- Y$$

$$X_2 \diagdown \diagdown N - C - (CH)_h - (CH_2)_f$$

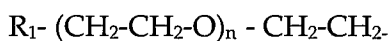$$\underset{X_1}{\diagup} \quad \underset{O}{\overset{\|}{O}} \quad \underset{A}{|}$$

in which

h and i are, on each occasion independently, 0 or 1,

g and f are, on each occasion independently, an integer between 0 and 10,

A is, on each occasion, H or -(CO)-NX$_2$, and

X$_1$, X$_2$, X$_3$ and X$_4$, and also X, have, in each case independently of each other, the meanings given above for X, where the compound exhibits at least two groups of the formula (IIa)

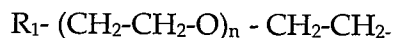R$_1$- (CH$_2$-CH$_2$-O)$_n$ - CH$_2$-CH$_2$-

formula (IIa)

in which

R$_1$ is H, hydroxy or a hydrocarbon residue which has from 1 to [[50]] 10 carbon atoms and which can contain 5 heteroatoms, and

n is, on each occasion independently, an integer of from 3 to 1000.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compounds of the formulae

$X' - NH_2$	(IV)
$(W')_2C=O$	(V)
$Z' - NC$	(VI),
and	
$V' - COOH$	(VII)

are reacted with each other, as starting compounds, in a multicomponent reaction, where V', W', X' and Z' are, in each case independently of each other, a hydrocarbon residue which can optionally contain heteroatoms and/or V', W' and/or X' are hydrogen, where at least one of the residues V', W', X' and Z' ~~carries~~ contains a binding group Y and where the residues V', W', X' and Z' together possess at least two groups of the formula (IIa)

$$R_1- (CH_2-CH_2-O)_n - CH_2-CH_2-$$

formula (IIa)

in which

R_1 is H, hydroxy or a hydrocarbon residue which has from 1 to [[50]] 10 carbon atoms and which can contain heteroatoms, and

n is, on each occasion independently, an integer of from 3 to 1000.

8.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein at least one of the residues V', W', X' and/or Z' contains at least one further functionality selected from the group consisting of NH_2, C=O, NC and/or COOH.

9.   (Previously Presented) A conjugate which comprises a compound of the formula (I), as

defined in claim 1, which is covalently bonded to a biopharmaceutical, pharmaceutical and/or synthetic active compound.

10.   (Previously Presented) A conjugate which comprises a compound of the formula (I), as defined in claim 1, which is covalently bonded to a surface and/or a biocatalyst.

11.   (Previously Presented) A conjugate which comprises a compound of the formula (I), as defined in claim 1, which is covalently bonded to an enzyme.

12.   (Previously Presented) A conjugate which comprises a compound of the formula (I), as defined in claim 1, which is covalently bonded to medicinal products or adjuvants for administering active compounds.

13.   (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound as claimed in claim 1.

14.   (Previously Presented) A diagnostic composition which comprises a compound as claimed in claim 1.

15.   (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical for treating cancer or coronary diseases, metabolic diseases, comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 9.

16.   (Previously presented) A method for preparing a substance library, wherein at least two different compounds as claimed in claim 1 are prepared using the method as claimed in claim 7 or 8.

17.   (Previously Presented) A substance library which comprises at least two different compounds of the formula (I), as defined in claim 1.

18.   (Previously presented) A kit which comprises:

(a)   at least one compound as claimed in claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

(b)   buffer solutions and, where appropriate;

(c)   standard proteins and/or means for purifying conjugates which have been formed together with the compound from (a).

19.   (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 9.

20.   (Previously Presented) A diagnostic composition comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 9.